שקל

The shekel

Volume XV, No. 6 Nov.-Dec. 1982

ISRAEL ISSUES NEW COMMEMORATIVE GOLD AND SILVER COINS

QUMRAN

Published by the
AMERICAN ISRAEL
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

OUR ORGANIZATION

AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 25790, TAMARAC, FLA 33320

MORRIS BRAM, *President and Chairman of the Board*
STANLEY YULISH, *Executive Vice President*
IRVING L RUDIN, *Second Vice President*
SIDNEY L. OLSON, *Treasurer* JULIUS TUROFF, *Secretary*

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

JULIUS TUROFF, New York
SIDNEY L. OLSON, Southeast
MOE WEINSCHEL, Brooklyn, Queens & L.I., N.Y.
IRVING L. RUDIN, New England
HARRY FLOWER, Midwest
DAVID PASZAMANT, East

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MORRIS BRAM	ARNOLD H. KAGAN	EDWARD SCHUMAN	MEL WACKS
HARRY FLOWER	SIDNEY L. OLSON	DONNA SIMS	ALAN WEINBERG
SYLVIA HAFFNER	DAVID PASZAMANT	NATHAN SOBEL	MOE WEINSCHEL
DAVID HENDIN	FRED ROGANSON	JULIUS TUROFF	STANLEY YULISH
EDWARD JANIS	IRVING L. RUDIN	J. JAY VAN GROVER	

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

The AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION is a cultural and educational organization dedicated to the study and collection of Israel's coinage, past and present, and all aspects of Judaica Numismatica. It is a democratically organized, membership oriented group, chartered as a non-profit association under the laws of the State of New York.

As an educational organization, the primary responsibility is the development of programs, publications, meeting and other activities which will bring news, history, technical, social and related background to the study of numismatics. Membership is open to all men and women of goodwill and to clubs who share the common goals of the Association.

The Association is the publisher of THE SHEKEL, *a six times a year journal and news magazine prepared for the enlightenment and education of the membership. It neither solicits or accepts advertising, paid or unpaid. Its views are the views and opinions of the writers and the pages and columns are open to all who submit material deemed by the editors to be of interest to the members.*

The Association sponsors such major cultural/social/numismatic events as an annual Study Tour of Israel, national and regional conventions and such other activities and enterprises which will benefit the members. Dues are paid annually at $10.00 per year; life memberships are offered to all at $150.00 per year. Junior membership (under 18) $2.50 per year. Your interest and participation will be welcomed by any of the affiliated clubs or as a general member of the Association.

THE AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. / An Educational Informational Non-Profit Organization: Published six times a year. Membership $10.00 per year. Send all remittances, undelivered magazines, change of address and zip code with old address label to P.O. Box 25790, Tamarac, Florida 33320.

Printed in U. S. A.

The SHEKEL שקל

Volume XV, No. 6 (Consec. No. 74) November-December 1982

George Gilbert, *Editor*

NUMISMATIC CONSULTANTS IN ISRAEL

ELI SEMMELMAN DOV GENACHOWSKI
SAMUEL LACHMAN MENACHEM LEW-RAN
JOSEPH MEROZ YA'AKOV MESHORER
SHMUEL MATALON

MOE WEINSCHEL, *Special Photography*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

The President's Message 2
Israel's Qumran Coins 3
Daniel Mendoza - First Jewish Heavyweight Champion
. . . by Edward Baruch 4
1983 Board of Director's Election Notice 7
From the 1914-1918 Diary of Mordechai Ben Hillel Hacohen:
"The Story Behind Registered Checks"
. . . by Nahum Hacohen 8
Centenary of Jewish Settlement Activities in Israel 1882-1982 12
Honor the Elders Medal Issued 13
AINA Salutes *The Shekel* and ANA-Boston 14
Israel Issues a New Pidyon Haben Medal 16
Bank of Israel Announces Coin Issues 18
Final Mintages Announced 18
Third Annual Greater New York Currency and Coin Convention
Shows New Strengths 19
1981 Israel Trade Coins - Mintage Figures . . . by Samuel Lachman, Haifa 24
Queens, N.Y. INS Sponsors Young Numismatists Day 25
Coin Honors Oldest Synagogue in Western Hemisphere
. . . by Harry Flower 26
Chanukah Gelt: Jewish Tradition or Pagan Practice?
. . . by Bernard Hoenig 27
Krause Publications Celebrates Its 30th Anniversary . . . by Pat Black . . 31
AINA Support Helps Build Shaare Zedek Hospital
. . . by Sidney L. Olson 33
Ancient Hebrew Coin Inscriptions . . . by Mel Wacks, NLG 35

Copyright © 1982 by the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

All Rights Reserved.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Morris Bram

Dear Friends,

As you are reading this issue of *The Shekel*, I will be once again on the road visiting with INS groups in the New England and Atlantic Coast states. I thought I would share with you some of what I will be telling AINA members and friends at these meetings.

I will report on AINA successes during 1982, which include Club Meetings, AINA conventions on the East Coast and the fine reception AINA enjoyed at the well-attended dinner meeting of the INS of Massachusetts held during the ANA Convention in Boston.

Yes, AINA has had a very good year. Our main emphasis has been in the direction of education which we provided to members and friends at these meetings, dinners, conventions and in our publication. Our Educational Forums enjoyed record attendances and our Young Numismatist Programs have been outstanding, thanks to Florence Schook and Larry Gentile, Jr. I will be looking ahead into making 1983 a great year too.

The first and foremost thing on my mind is the upcoming *Greater Florida International Coin Convention* which will be held in the luxury hotel of Hollywood, Florida, The Diplomat. This hotel is only ten minutes away from Ft. Lauderdale/Hollywood Airport and the mid-January dates (13-16), for the AINA convention there make it possible for you to enjoy your numismatic hobby and a memorable winter week in Florida sunshine. If you are driving, there will be free parking. I would like to publicly acknowledge my deep appreciation of the great efforts by Jack Garfield, General Chairman. It will be an outstanding event, where I hope to meet you.

Only two months later, we will hold the Fifteenth Annual Study Tour to Israel (March 3rd to March 17th). Israel needs your support as never before. Your purchase of Israel coins and medals is a step in that direction. A step aboard the airline to Israel for two weeks will be more meaningful for you and for your family . . . in 1983 and in the years ahead.

SHALOM,

Morris

Israel's Qumran Coins

Special Qumran Caves gold and silver commemorative coins were issued in October by Israel, all in 12-sided flans. The gold 5-sheqalim piece has the same diameter, 22mm, as the U.S. $5 gold piece and British sovereign. (Courtesy Bank of Israel, Jerusalem)

A special set of commemorative coins in gold and silver has been announced by the Bank of Israel to honor the Qumran Caves. A gold 5-sheqalim and silver 1-sheqel and ½-sheqel coins are being issued in the 1982 series.

All three coins are struck on a 12-sided flan. Eliezer Weisshoff designed the common obverse, while Dan Gelbart designed the similar reverse (value) sides.

The gold 5-sheqalim piece measures 22 millimeters, the exact diameter of the U.S. $5 gold piece and the British gold sovereign. It weighs 8.63 grams, and will be struck in about 6,000 pieces.

The silver 1-sheqel coin measures 30mm and weights 14.4 grams and occurs in proof only. Some 9,000 pieces are to be minted.

The silver ½-sheqel measures 23mm and weighs 7.2 grams. It will be issued only in brilliant uncirculated condition, the Bank of Israel revealed. Estimated mintage is 20,000 pieces.

The new coins are the first in a framework of a new run of commemoratives in which Israel is to honor historical sites in the Holy Land.

The Qumran Caves coin obverse depicts the word QUMRAN in Hebrew and English. ✡

DANIEL MENDOZA — FIRST JEWISH HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

by Edward Baruch

One of the most fascinating personalities in boxing annals was Daniel Mendoza, the first Jew to win the heavyweight championship of England. The year was 1791.

Many tokens were issued with Mendoza's likeness in the English half-penny size, undated, and with varying inscriptions on the reverse. In addition, a 35 mm copper and white metal medal issued in 1791 shows Daniel Mendoza (left) and William Ward (right) whom Mendoza fought and beat in one of his most sensational bouts. The reverse has Mendoza on the left fighting with Ward. These tokens and the medal are of the highest rarity and may be

Mendoza (left); Ward (right)

Reverse
of dated token

found in museums in the United States and England and in private collections of several numismatists in the United States, Europe and Israel.

Daniel Mendoza was born in 1763, the son of Spanish parents who lived in the East End section of London. At this time, anti-semitism was prevalent and Jews were prey to attacks from rowdies. Consequently it became a paramount necessity for Jews to learn the art of self-defense. Some became outstanding pugilists but it was Daniel Mendoza who reached the pinnacle of pugilistic glory. He completely revolutionized the art of boxing by introducing a scientific method that worked perfectly for him and which has served fighters to the present time.

Agility and Cunning

Since Mendoza was small for a heavyweight — 160 pounds and 5′7″ standing. Rather than slugging it out while on his feet, the style of the period, he developed an agility and cunning which kept his bigger and sturdier opponent off balance. With this strategy he set the stage for counterblows that found their mark in what was considered unorthodox boxing.

Early professional prize fighting in England was brutal by any standards. Holding and hitting, ear pulling and even tripping to throw an opponent off balance and then landing with full force on the fallen boxer, was commonly permitted. In those days, significant injuries delivered with elbows and knees were violations often overlooked by the referee and relished by the spectators. It was not unusual for a fighter to have his head shaved. Then the opponent could not grab hair with one hand while punching with the other. These unfair tactics ultimately led to establishment of a code called the Marquis of Queensbury Rules.

He Gets a Patron

When Daniel Mendoza was sixteen years old, his fighting abilities were discovered by the famous English boxer Richard Humphreys. Humphreys, owner of a school of the art of self-defense became Mendoza's patron. Under his tutelage, Mendoza was helped to attain a certain measure of fame. The relationship did not last long. Humphrey's anti-semitic traits finally angered Mendoza and proved disastrous to their deal. They became bitter enemies, even fighting professionally against each other three times. In the first fight Humphreys threw his shoulder into Mendoza's jaw who hurt his ankle badly as he fell. Mendoza lost the fight unable to get up.

It took Mendoza a long time to recuperate and to get back into shape. Again he squared off against Humphreys; in the second battle, Mendoza won handily. At Humphreys' urging a third encounter was

proposed and accepted. The thrashing Humphreys received at Mendoza's hands left him completely powerless to fight again for the rest of his life.

Following that fight, Mendoza became a celebrity. He criss-crossed England and Ireland to give pugilistic exhibitions. It was to Daniel Mendoza's credit that Ireland owed its success in establishment of schools for prize-fighters.

In 1791 Mendoza became the sixteenth heavyweight champion of England, a title he held until 1795. His first professional boxing fight gave him an undisputed victory, but not before he was severely punished. This experience spurred him to devise his scientific methods of self-defense. These proved to be a smashing success and set the stage for other boxers who sought to take advantage of Mendoza's stragegy. The slugger type of fighter was no longer able to survive a man whose style provided for frequent retreats, great agility and dexterity in both attack and defense. The old street fighter style of boxing was no longer successful.

In the end, Daniel Mendoza's locks of hair proved to be his undoing as a champion. At Hornchurch on April 15, 1795, in the County of Essex, Mendoza lost against "Gentleman" Jackson in a most grueling encounter in which Jackson held firmly on Mendoza's hair while pounding him unmercifully.

Daniel Mendoza
Medal honors pugilist.

Daniel Mendoza died in 1836 in Horshoe Alley, Petticoat Lane, still today the Jewish section of London. He left his wife, Esther, eleven children and a legacy of brawn and brains that lifted him above the tensions and taunts of anti-Semites. Jews everywhere rejoiced in his triumphs, for Daniel Mendoza was also a proud Jew who never forgot his people.

FREE TO LIFE MEMBERS AND 1983 AINA MEMBERS

A thrilling numismatic gift package to AINA members only! The new 1983 Membership Goldine Token PLUS the IGCMC New Year's Token PLUS six issues of The Shekel including another HOLOCAUST Special issue this Spring.

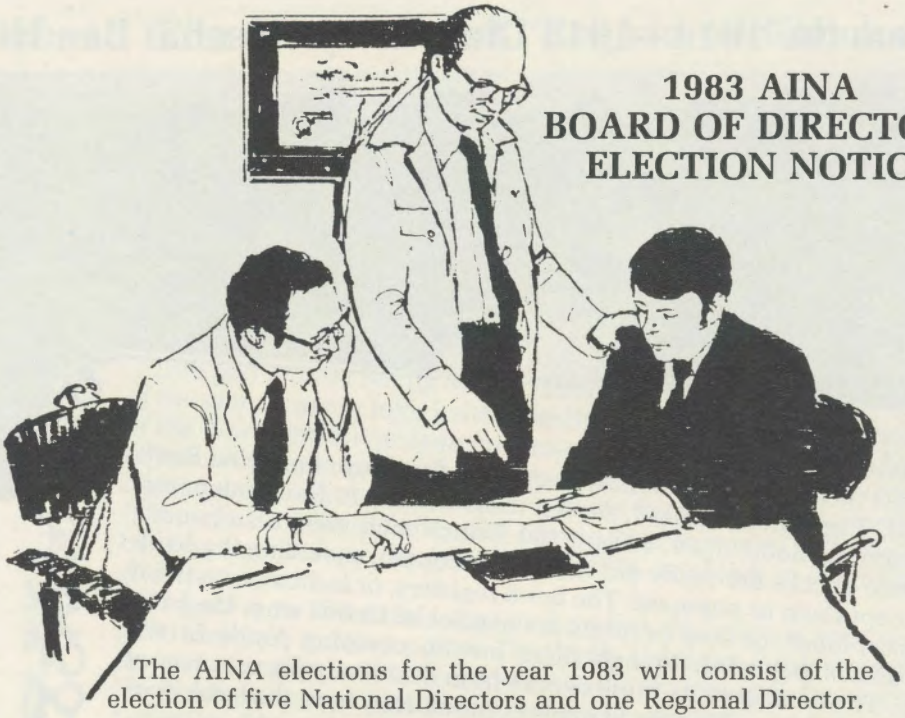
SEND IN YOUR DUES TODAY

SOBEL TOKEN DESIGN WINS BOARD APPROVAL

The 1983 AINA Membership Token Design which has won Board of Director's approval was designed by the well-known numismatist and Board Member, Nat Sobel of New York.

A number of designs had been submitted from across the country, noted Mr. Bram in announcing the award.

1983 AINA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION NOTICE



The AINA elections for the year 1983 will consist of the election of five National Directors and one Regional Director.

The one Regional Director will cover Area 1 - New York.

Any paid-up member of AINA is eligible to run for office. Those interested in running for the office of Director and requiring information regarding the procedure may write to:

Office Administrator, AINA
P.O. Box 25790
Tamarac, Fl. 33320

We will then send the necessary information and petition forms. Since this is a very important function of AINA, we would appreciate hearing form all those interested in participating.

In preparation for the elections, the following committee has been appointed:

Election Committee:

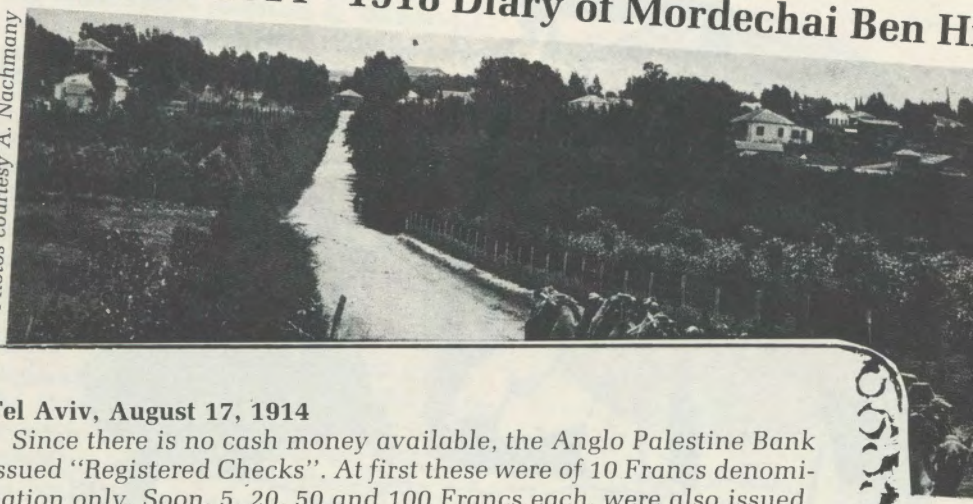
Rose Kantor
Roy Miller
Irving Cantor

The election procedure this year is as follows:

All ballots will be sent directly to the office of the American Israel Numismatic Association's certified accountants. The counting of the ballots will be done by our auditing firm who will certify to the audit, and they will be assisted in their count by the Election Committee.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon anyone interested in running for office to contact the AINA office for information and petitions prior to February 1, 1983.

From the 1914 - 1918 Diary of Mordechai Ben H



Photos courtesy A. Nachmany

Tel Aviv, August 17, 1914

Since there is no cash money available, the Anglo Palestine Bank issued "Registered Checks". At first these were of 10 Francs denomination only. Soon, 5, 20, 50 and 100 Francs each, were also issued.

These checks are made out to one's account, requesting the bank to accept them as payment. The bank registers, or indicates on them its acceptance, as long as funds are available. In this way, the bank guarantees payment, though there are no covering funds in the bank. The bank accepts these checks from everybody for payment of debts and also as deposits in one's account. However, the bank does not convert them into cash payments.

This procedure helps out considerably, since it's a surrogate for gold which is unavailable. The bank provides everyone holding an account with these checks. Actually, it favors those whom the bank must or wants to provide, or rather - lend funds.

Since there is no gold available, businessmen use these registered checks. At first, the bank was afraid to issue them, since the public could have considered them as "legal tender". The latter is not to be issued by any bank in the Turkish Empire, except the Ottoman Bank. But, based on studies and consultations with lawyers, The Anglo Palestine Bank decided to go ahead and implement the issue of these checks. This was mainly done to alleviate conditions as much as possible.

I presented a proposal to the City Council of Tel Aviv, suggesting that it issue money notes of small denominations. These registered checks can be exchanged in the marketplace for smaller denomination currency, however, at a considerable discount. I, therefore, proposed that the City Council issue money notes in 1½ Franc denominations, as well as 1½ Bishlik. However, the City Council is scared. It could be accused by the Government for issuing unauthorized currencies. I, therefore, drafted a language which reads that each money note is not currency, but only script authorizing stores to provide merchandise of 1 Franc or Bishlik value. In this way, in my opinion, there is no violation.

Finally, the City Council adopted my proposal and issued the money notes.

cohen: The Story behind "Registered Checks"

September 6, 1914

Late last month, led by Mr. M. Dizengoff, Mayor of Tel Aviv, most of the merchants in Jaffa held a meeting to discuss the repercussions of the War (World War I) on business. There is no liquid cash, banks refuse to release gold, while The Anglo Palestine Bank registered checks are discounted, thus losing value from day to day. Business is therefore at a standstill, with prospects of a general collapse and bankruptcy. It was therefore decided to establish a "Merchants Association".

Its goal is to boost the usage and protect the value of the "registered checks", to receive from The Anglo Palestine Bank some gold instead of registered checks, when absolutely required, to convince the banks to accept promissary notes at a discount, and more. Mr. Levontin, Managing Director of The Anglo Palestine Bank, was present at the meeting. He congratulated the new association, promising to advance to them an equal amount of gold to the amount the association will advance. He willl gladly accept promissary notes of the bank's clients. He will also endeavor to bring adititional quantities of gold from abroad and extend as much aid as possible to members of the new association.

The association decided to request that The Anglo Palestine Bank in writing, guarantee payment covering the registered checks immediately after the termination in priority to all other payments. The Turkish military authorities issued a permit recognizing the association. The Anglo Palestine Bank committed in writing as requested by the association. Also, the Bank guaranteed to maintain 3,000 gold Francs at the disposal of extending loans against registered checks. Moreover, any member depositing gold will be guaranteed to withdraw gold. The association announced a price list for food items, especially sugar (one grush per one Rottel).

September 10, 1914

Apart from the registered checks and in addition to the money notes of small denominations issued by the Tel Aviv City Council, to "break" these checks, a number of stores issued their own script using it as change. A variety of these scripts can contribute to the loss of faith and confusion. The association has therefore summoned store owners, instructing them to cease and desist from issuing and using their own scripts.

To date, the City council of Tel Aiv issued money notes in the sum of 14,000 Francs, all covered by registered checks.

October 31, 1914

Turkey declared war on Russia and the Allies. Mr. Hooflen, Deputy General Manager of The Anglo Palestine Bank, came in to see me at noon. He informed me that effective this morning the American flag is hoisted on the bank. "Now the Turks won't dare to touch us," said he.

November 3, 1914

The Anglo Palestine Bank in Jerusalem was sealed by the Turkish Authorities ignoring the American flag.

November 4, 1914

The main office of the Bank in Tel Aviv was sealed by the authorities.

November 5, 1914

The Turkish authorities are conducting an extensive search for registered checks. While searching Mr. Dizengoff's home, the funds of the City Council of Tel Aviv were found and seized, amounting to 10,000 Francs in registered checks. Therefore, I had to hide all my cash and stock certificates.

At noon, the governor, the chief of police, two police officers, as well as Mayor Dizengoff, arrived at my home. Armed guards were posted around the fence and the gates. They found me in my study, demanding all the cash I had. I showed them my wallet with 80 gold Francs in it. The governor asked that I produce large sums and registered checks. I told him that I have none, that I drew funds from the bank for my daily needs only. I opened the drawers of my desk asking him to search. He looked at my Anglo Palestine Bank check book and noticed that I had transactions of tens of thousands of Francs.

He stated: "Since you have such large transactions you obviously have large sums of money'. "But," said I, "these are mostly based on loans I received from the Bank. I owe them all that". "Very well", said the governor, "if the Bank lends you such vast sums, you must be a wealthy man".

I pulled out some stock certificates, as 30 shares of The Anglo Paletine Bank in London, "Atid" shares—each of 1000 rubels, "Carmel" shares—each of 500 rubels and debentures of "Atid" of 15,000 francs. The governor was delighted to have found such a treasure. He confiscated all of these giving me a receipt. They all left at about 2 P.M.

November 18, 1914

The Deutsch Palastina Bank decided to issue registered checks, identical to the ones issued by our Anglo Palestine Bank. Since the latter proved to the Turkish Authorities that these checks were not considered as "legal tender". It was a regular check, registered by the Bank for payment at the end of the World War. However, the public called it "banknotes".

Now, the German Bank followed The Anglo Palestine Bank. Since small denominations were needed, the Tel Aviv City Council issues

money notes per my proposal. The City Councel guarantees coverage of their money notes. As soon as World War is over the City Council will pay all the sums of the money notes. The City Council accepts as payment of taxes and debts owed to the Council by Tel Aviv residents. These are issued in ½, 1 and 3 Franc notes, each in a different color, each stamped with City Council seal and numbered. The City Cashier changes gold, silver and bank notes to money notes, at all times. The City Council appointed a special committee to supervise the handling of these money notes. Demand for these notes has been rising. I saw with my own eyes a Turkish officer paying with these notes for merchandise purchased in a Tel Aviv store.

November 30, 1914

The Governor returned all the money and documents seized earlier this month. We were called to his office where each of us was given our possessions. I received all the stock certificates, returning to him the signed receipt. He returned to the City Council the 10,000 Francs in registered checks.

Translated from the Hebrew by Nahum Hacohen

Registered check for 20 francs, collection Sidney L. Olson

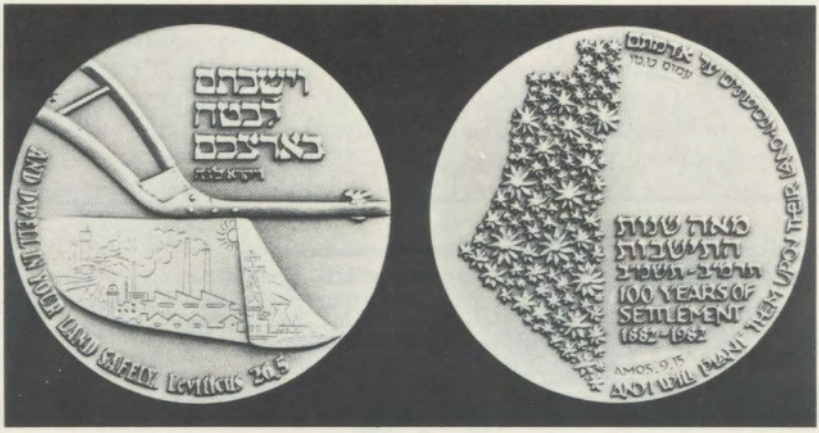
CENTENARY OF JEWISH SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES IN ISRAEL 1882-1982

During 1982, Israel commemorated the "Centenary of Jewish Settlement Activities in the Land of Israel".

During the first hundred years of "rediscovery"of the land in Israel, it was the plough that traced out the country's future borders. And although advanced technological industry has gradually gained predominance in Israel, the future of the country will continue to depend on farming communities.

The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation has issued an official State Medal commemorating this Settlement Centenary. On one side of the medal, a map composed of flowers symbolizes the desert which has reblossomed; on the reverse–a plowshare.

Profits from the sale of these medals are earmarked for the improvement of the landscapes of Israel, the establishment and preservation of national parks and gardens, the excavation of antiquities and for nature conservation in Israel.



Description of the Medal

Obverse –Left, a stylized map of Israel, in flowers. Right, in Hebrew and English, the words: *"100 Years of Settlement"* and the dates *"1882-1982"*. On the right edge–in Hebrew and English–a Biblical quotation *"And I will plant them upon their land"*. (Amos, 9, 15).

Reverse –An image of a plowshare reflecting the gradual transition from agricultural activities and the development of advanced technological industries. The verse–in Hebrew and English–*"And dwell in your land safely"* (Leviticus, 26, 5).

Design –Obverse–Gideon Keich; reverse–Nathan Karp.

Presentation—The gold and silver medals are presented in attractive olive wood cases. The bronze medal comes in a cardboard box.

Metal	*Diameter*	*Gross Weight*
Gold/750	18mm	4.4 gr.
Silver/935	34mm	22 gr.
Bronze	59mm	98 gr.

"HONOR THE ELDERS" Medal Issued

A special medal in gold, silver and bronze has been issued by the IGCMC to honor older persons.

In Hebrew, the word signifying "an old man"is *zaken*. It possesses a broader connotation, referring as well to the "learned" ("elder"), the "sage"—thus reflecting the veneration and deference that the Jewish people has always accorded to the elderly.

Indeed, the *Torah* explicitly commands the Jew to *"rise up before the hoary head and honor the face of the old man"* (Lev. 19.32). Jewish Law (*Halakhah*) requires one to stand up whenever persons above the age of seventy pass by, irrespective of their sex, religion, wealth or wisdom.

Profits and the royalties paid to the State Treasury are earmarked for the improvement of the landscape of Israel, the establishment and preservation of national parks and gardens, the excavation of antiquities, and for nature conservation in Israel.

Description of the Medal

Obverse – A tree with its branches and leaves designed in Hebrew letters forming the verse: *"They still bring forth fruit in old age"*, Psalms 92, 15 in Hebrew. On the rim the English translation of the verse.

Reverse – The verse: *"For as the days of a tree shall be the days of My people"*, Isaiah 65, 22 in Hebrew and in English, on the background of the tree cross section.

Edge – Gold medals–milled.
Silver and Bronze medals: The words "State of Israel", the State Emblem and serial number. On the silver medals–"silver 935"

Design – Gideon Keich; Reliefs–Moshe Nov

Minting – Silver–The Government Mint, Jerusalem Gold and Bronze—Mosche Hecht

Details of the Medal

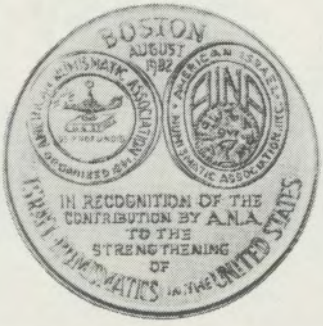
Metal	*Diameter*	*Weight*
Gold/750	18mm	4.4 gr.
Silver/935	34mm	22 gr.
Bronze	59mm	98 gr.

AINA guest speaker Dr. Eli Grad, right, meets with longtime supporters of the association, Harry X. Boosel, left, and John Pittman, both governors of the American Numismatic Association.

Irving Canter, left, chats with Larry Gentile Jr. and Sr. during the AINA banquet at the ANA Boston convention. The Gentiles are deeply involved in programs for young numismatists on the East Coast.

George Hatie, left, immediate past president of the American Numismatic Association, and Ben Odesser, AINA member and Token and Medal Society (TAMS) enthusiast, talk shop at the AINA banquet.

Former Mint Director Eva Adams renewed many old acquaintances during the AINA dinner/reception. Here, she talks with Adna G. Wilde, Jr., president of the American Numismatic Association and one of several ANA officials present. Miss Adams is a life member of AINA.



AINA salutes 'The Shekel' at Boston reunion

The American Israel Numismatic Association hosted a formal reunion Aug. 18 during the weeklong convention of the American Numismatic Association in Boston.

In addition to more than 80 members and guests, the AINA reception and dinner drew several notable numismatists such as former Mint Director Eva Adams; famed sculptor and medallist Paul Vincze and his wife, Betty; ANA President Adna G. Wilde Jr.; ANA Governors John Pittman, Florence Schook and Harry X Boosel; and Nahum Hacohen, North American operations director of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp.

The Shekel, now approaching its 15th year of publication, was spotlighted during the banquet with the announcement of the September/October Holocaust special edition, and with presentations of the first issue to contributing author Leon Lindheim and *Coin World* editor Margo Russell (AINA's 1,000th member).

An authentic ram's horn from Israel is presented to Dr. Eli Grad, left, by AINA President Morris Bram. Grad, the main speaker for the evening, is president, dean of faculty and professor of education at the Hebrew College in Brookline, Mass.

Adna Wilde accepts a 24-karat gold plated medallion from American Israel Numismatic Association President Morris Bram. The medallion, struck on one side of the "Greetings from Jerusalem" token, features both the AINA and the ANA logos. It commemorates the AINA gathering at the national convention and was distributed to all attending.

ISRAEL ISSUES A NEW PIDYON HABEN MEDAL

A new official medal struck only in silver features the Redemption of the First Born (*Pidyon Haben*). The *obverse* describes The Temple; the *reverse* depicts the verse:

"*From a month old shall you redeem them; the redemption price shall be fixed at five sheqels of silver, after the Sheqel of the Sanctuary*" (Numbers 18.16).

Significance of the Commandment

In an unusual practice of the People of Israel, the first yield of the field and home is set apart for God's service.

This practice is articuated in such customs as "Hallah", "Raishit Hagez", and "Bikurim". The Jew sets aside the first portion of the dough, "Hallah", as the priest's share. In the same manner he reserves the first fleece shorn from his flock. "Raishit Hagez", and the first fruits of his land, "Bikurim". He is even told to set apart his first-born son: "*to better appreciate that man possesses only that which the all-merciful Creator sees fit to grant him*" (Sefer Ha-Hinuch — *The Book of Instruction*).

In ancient days, the firstborn of each household was given to the Creator to serve as priest. The special status of the firstborn was a reminder of the miraculous manner in which firstborn of Israel had been saved, while the firstborn of Egypt perished during the Exodus.

Descendants of Aaron, Levites and Kohanim, were instructed to act in place of the firstborn, to fulfull the priestly functions. The Lord then commanded redemption of the firstborn from the obligation to service! "Pidyon Haben".

Redemption of the Firstborn

The ceremony is performed on the 31st day following the birth of a firstborn son. Should the 31st day fall on a shabbat or festival, the ceremony is postponed to the following day. If one is not redeemed by his father, he must redeem himself upon reaching manhood. Redemption is only required of the mother's firstborn. If the firstborn's father is a Kohen or Levi or the mother is the daughter of a Kohen or Levi, he does not require redemption.

Redemption may be performed with money or its equivalent, provided that whatever is used, is equal to five sheqels of the "Sheqel of the Sanctuary", which contained 20 grams of pure silver.

How Performed

The ceremony is first explained to the parents of the child and the appropriate declarations annd blessings recited.

Five sheqels are presented by the father to the Kohen, who then returns the child to his parents, declaring: "*I have received from you these five selaim (sheqels) for the redemption of your son and he is redeemed according to Jewish Law*". On completion of the ceremony the Kohen may, if he wishes, return the sheqels as a gift.

Observance

To this end IGCMC has issued a set of five silver medals bearing the State emblem. Each medal contains 20.57 grams of pure silver, and the five medals a total of 102.85 grams. This weight is slightly more than that of the "Five Sheqels of the Sanctuary" cited in the *Torah*.

The attractive design of the medal derives from the ancient Jewish sheqel of the period of the Second Temple and Jewish War against the Romans. The Temple bowl and five pomegranates are reminiscent of the five sheqels of the "Sheqel of the Sanctuary".

With each set of five medals an attractively decorated commemorative certificate is enclosed, signed by the two Chief Rabbis of Israel, attesting, that the medals meet the requirements of Jewish Law for the Redemption of the Firstborn. This certificate accommodates the inscription of the child's name, the date of the ceremony, and other family details.

Appropriately, profits from the sale of these Medals are earmarked for the improvement of Israel's landscapes, establishment and preservations of her national parks and natural reserves, and excavation of antiquities. ✡

ANA TO DISPLAY KAGAN-MAREMBA COLLECTION

The world-famous Kagan-Maremba Collection of Israel Coins and Currency which has already starred at major numismatic conventions and on college campuses will be exhibited in part at the Stack's Gallery at the ANA Museum, Colorado Springs, Colorado. The exhibit will have an Opening Ceremony on the first day of Hanukah, December 11, 1982, announced Robert W. Hoge, ANA Museum Curator.

Bank of Israel Announces Coin Issues

The Currency Department of the Bank of Israel has announced forthcoming issues of commemorative coins together with up-to-date production figures for trade coins bearing the date 1982.

Hannuka Coin - 1982

On the occasion of the Festival of Lights 1982 a Hannuka Special Coin will be issued, the motif of which will be an early Hannuka Lamp from Yemen.

This coin is an addition to the series of Hannuka Special Coins issued in the past years commemorating various lamps used by the Jewish communities throughout the Diaspora.

The 1982 Silver Coins will be issued in Proof and BU condition.

	Proof	*BU*
Nominal Value	2 Sheqalim	1 Sheqel
Weight	28.8 grs	14.4 grs
Diameter	37 mms	30 mms
Edge	Reeded	Smooth

"Sites in the Holy Land"

The first coin in the framework of a new series of coins commemorating historical sites in the Holy Land will be the "Qumran caves", designed to show a fragment of the manuscript depicting the war between the "sons of light and the sons of darkness."

The coins are described on another page in this publication.

Both the Hannuka and the Qumran Special Coins were recently ratified by the Ministerial Committee for Economic Affairs and will be distributed by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation.

Mintages of Jan.-June 1982 Coins

The mintage figures for the trade coins produced to the end of June 1982, bearing the 1982 dateline in Hebrew:

1 New Agora	1,000,000
5 New Agorot	5,000,000
10 New Agorot	23,000,000
½ Sheqel	18,710,484
1 Sheqel	15,850,000
5 Sheqalim	12,000,000
10 Sheqalim	28,000,000

FINAL MINTAGE FIGURES ANNOUNCED

Jerusalem . . . Eliezer Shiloni, Director General of the Israel Government Coins & Medals Corporaiton, released final mintage figures for the following coins and medals:

A. 1981 Hanukka Coin (Lamp of Poland)

B.U. coins - 16,151

Proof coins - 11,221

B. 1981 "Piefort" Mintset - 30,217

C. *Medals*	*Type/Size*	*Final Quantity*
Jerusalem - The Knesset	Silver, 59	5577
Masada	Silver, 59	1814
El Al	Silver, 59	1161
Oil Refineries	Silver, 59	1425
Oil Refineries	Bronze, 59	1596
Beth Hatefutsot	Silver, 45	2055
Shaare Zedak Medical Center	Silver, 45	3050
Habimah Theater - 60th Anniv.	Silver, 45	1930
Habimah Theater - 60th Anniv.	Bronze, 59	1995
Albert Einstein Cent.	Silver, 45	2627
Albert Einstein Cent.	Bronze, 59	3165
Teachers Union - 75 Anniv.	Silver, 37	2241
Teachers Union - 75 Anniv.	Bronze, 59	1506
Petah Tiva Cent.	Silver, 35	3000
Petah Tiva Cent.	Bronze, 59	3174
Nantanya Jubilee	Silver, 35	1823
Nantanya Jubilee	Bronze, 59	3374
30 Years of Export	Bronze, 59	2216
The Food Industry	Bronze, 59	2619

3RD ANNUAL GREATER NEW YORK CURRENCY AND COIN CONVENTION SHOWS NEW STRENGTHS

With a galaxy of numismatic stars and the broadest educational and cultural activities in its history, the *Greater New York Currency and Coin Convention* made numismatic history in mid-September, announced Moe Weinschel, General Chairman for the event at the New York Sheraton.

The combination of famous personalities, brilliant exhibits that filled every available case and table and exciting educational programs made the perfect background for four days of fine weather and good fellowship. Mr. Morris Bram, president of AINA who led the simultaneous AINA Convention introduced such attending guests as Adna G. Wilde, Jr. president of the ANA; George Hatie, former president of the ANA and member of the Board of Governors of that organization; and such well-known members of the AINA Board as Stanley Yulish of Cleveland, Ohio; Sidney L. Olson of Miami Beach; Nat Sobel of New York; Irving L. Rudin of Boston; Dave Paszamant; Sylvia Haffner; J. J. Van Grover; Alan Weinberg; and Julius Turoff of N.Y. who took active parts in the educational activities.

One surprise for visiting numismatists was speaker Morris Bram who led the educational presentation at the Saturday meeting of METAMS (*Metropolitan Tokens and Medals Society*) with a detailed presentation of transportation tokens, most relating to the history of New York. The audience was treated to Bram humor with his account of the 5¢ ticket provided by the World War II Draft Board to assure a ride to Brooklyn on the subway.

Guest speaker at the evening banquet was Adna G. Wilde Jr. who took all on a tour of the ANA headquarters with color slides and running commentary on the Colorado Springs facilities of that organization.

Chairman of the banquet was Sidney L. Olson.

During the Educational Forum chaired by Stanley Yulish, an enthralled audience was introduced to scripophily by one of its most active proponents, Sidney L. Olson who showed how bonds, checks and documents trace the financial history of a society. Mr. Olson illustrated his talk with photographs of American, French and Israeli documents and numerous anecdotes on their collection.

Speaker Anthony Swiatek, well-known numismatist and dealer used slides to teach one and all how to guard against numerous grading and coin condition deceits.

Young Numismatists Attract Stars

The Young Numismatist program was led in the Board Room by Larry Gentile Sr. The youths learned from such experienced numismatists as author-researcher Sylvia Haffner and club leader Dave Paszamant.

A late afternoon presentation, by Dr. Nelson Aspen traced the history of the coins and currency of Bermuda. Dr. Aspen interspersed slides of the beautiful island once occupied by privateers with clues and guides to a numismatist's enjoyment of that tropical isle.

AT THE EDUCATIONAL FORUM

Morris Bram; Sidney L. Olson; Anthony Swiatek and Stanley Yulish.

BEST OF SHOW WINNER

Irving Cantor (l.) awards plaque to winner Barbara Druck with General Chairman Moe Weinschel congratulating the exhibitor.

AINA ACTIVITIES DESK

Julius Turoff and Nat Sobel (seated) greet convention visitors.

ANA'S WILDE GREETS HIS MEMBERSHIP

Adna Wilde, Jr. president of ANA, (seated) greets attendees.

BOURSE SECURITY

Morris Bram aids Security Head Jack Garfield of Florida.

YOUNG NUMISMATISTS

Bram congratulates exhibitors at Young Numismatists meeting.

BANQUET PRESENTATIONS

Master of Ceremonies Sidney L. Olson greets banquet attendees from the podium.

BOURSE CORNER

Scene from the Exhibit Balcony over the bourse shows a tiny section of the active halls.

BRAM GREETS YOUNGMAN

Henny Youngman (r.), well-known comic, was a suprise visitor to the convention, admits Morris Bram.

WILDE HONORED

Morris Bram thanks Adna Wilde Jr. for his excellent banquet presentation.

Photographs at the AINA Convention and at Greater New York Currency and Coin Convention at New York Sheraton in September.

In the judging of exhibits, the surprise big winner with Best-of-Show was the popular Barbara Druck who shared responsiblity for Exhibit Hall Security with other details of running a successful convention. Her exhibit featured medals, buttons and other memorabilia relating to Admiral Dewey.

First Place prizewinners were J.J. Abiuso (*Heraldic Half Eagle*); Irving Canter (*Haym Solomon*); George Gilbert (*Photography in Numismatics*); William Horton, Jr. (*U.S. Paper Money*); Charles Surasky (*U.S. Postal Notes*); Jack Garfield (*Israel Medals*); Irving Canter (*Transportation Tokens*); Simon Castian (*British Crowns*); Sidney L. Olson (*Judaic Fiscal History*); and Lawrence Gentile, Sr. (*Constantine I*).

Second Place prizewinners were Joseph Sande (*U.S. Paper Money*); and Alan Weinberg (*Israel Medals*). Third Place prizes were won by Arthur Reich and E. Coppinger (*U.S. Paper Money*) and by Selig Levine (*Israel Medals*).

A giant team of committees led by experienced show aides was assembled for the occasion by Morris Bram, president of AINA and Moe Weinschel, a member of the AINA Board and a longtime club leader in metropolian New York numismatic activities.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Bram; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Janis.

The following committees were thanked by General Chairman Moe Weinschel at the Saturday evening banquet, a roast beef dinner at the Sheraton, HQ for the convention:

REGISTRATION
Faye Stern, Chairperson
Sidney Goldfield
Michael Granis
Florence Turoff

EXHIBITS
Julius Turoff
Martin Morgenstern
Michael Druck

BOURSE
Jack Garfield
Norman Pepin

RECEPTION & BANQUET
Nat Sobel
Alan Weinberg

YOUNG NUMISMATISTS
Larry Gentile, Chairman
Dave Paszamant
Sylvia Haffner

EDUCATIONAL FORUM
Stanley Yulish, Moderator
Anthony Swiatek
Sidney L. Olsen
Speakers

PHOTOGRAPHY
SECURITY
Jack Garfield
Moe Weinschel

PROPERTY
Norman Pepin
Arthur Reich

AWARDS
Julius Turoff
Moe Weinschel

KEYS
Michael Druck
Alan Weinberg

PUBLICITY
Frances Baum

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
Frank Stickel
Irving Cantor

AINA BOOTH
Barbara Druck

SIGNS
Julius Turoff

A surprise visitor and guest late afternoon on Saturday was the television and night club comedian, Henny Youngman, long a numismatist. He thought that Morris Bram told better jokes than he did when the impertubable Bram suggested that Mr. Youngman make an unpaid guest appearance at the banquet later that evening. ✡

CHAIRMAN REPORTS

General Chairman of the GNYCCS Moe Weinschel made his report to banquet guests before Exhibitor Awards were announced.

METAMS HEARS BRAM

Barnette Anderson, John Gabriel, Irving Cantor, Vincent Alones and Nat Sobel hear Morris Bram presentation.

YOUNG NUMISMATISTS

Larry Gentile, Sr. (center, right) with Agnes Alones and Morris Bram greeted youths and guests Adna Wilde, Jr. of ANA and Alan Weinberg of AINA Board.

2,500 Years of Jerusalem Bureaucrats Uncovered at Temple Wall Dig Site

JERUSALEM—The recent discovery of some 53 ancient seals in this ancient city suggests that Israelites who lived here more than 2,500 years ago were beleaguered by bureaucracy.

The seals are among the relics archeologists have uncovered this year while excavating the hilltop capital built by the biblical Kings David and Solomon.

The seals were found in what appears to be an office of ancient Jerusalem's royal administration that was destroyed, along with the first Holy Temple, in 586 B.C.

Archeologists have dug down as far as the Bronze Age.

Built and rebuilt by each new ruling civilization, the outer city walls of the Israelite, Canaanite and Jebusite periods have come to light in the last five years.

1981 Israel Trade Coins — Mintage Figures

by Samuel Lachman, Haifa.

According to the annual report of the Bank of Israel for 1981, published in May 1982, the following quantities of coins 5741/1981 were minted: (foreign mints in parenthesis)

	Struck at Jerusalem	*Struck abroad*	*Total*
1 new agora	——	1,000,000	1,000,000
5 new agorot	——	1,000,000	1,000,000
10 new agorot	28,160,000	123,000,000 (Germany)	151,160,000
½ sheqel	37,976,000	15,296,000 (France)	53,272,000
1 sheqel	39,972,054	99,000,000 (France)	138,972,054

The cost of the production of the coins are as follows:

1 new agora ..... 8 new agorot
5 new agorot ..... 10.2 new agorot
10 new agorot
16.8 - 20.2 new agorot
½ sheqel ..... 30 new agorot
1 sheqel ... 41.0 - 49.4 new agorot

The cost of the recently issued coins dated 5742/1982 are:

5 sheqalim ..... 37.5 new agorot
10 sheqalim ..... 62.1 new agorot

The report points out that the Jerusalem mint is unable to produce all of the required quantities.

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- *The Many Lives of the Jerusalem Bank* by Dov Genachowski, Jerusalem
- *Egypt's Ramses II Paper Money* by Ed Baruch
- *What Should I Collect* by Harry Flower
- *Index* to 15 Years of *The Shekel*
- News from Israel of Coins and Medals, ancient and modern

QUEENS, N.Y. I.N.S. SPONSORS YOUNG NUMISMATISTS' DAY

A Youth Numismatists Day co-sponsored by the Israel Numismatic Society of Queens, N.Y. and the Youth Department of the Flushing YM/YWHA attracted fourteen youngsters and twenty-four adults earlier this year.

The event was backed by AINA whose president, Morris Bram, provided gifts of coins, medals, books and periodicals of an educational nature.

The meeting was chaired by Walter Halpern, president of the INS of Queens, who coordinated all arrangements. Larry Gentile Sr. told of young numismatist activities in and around the metropolitan area, where he has been a youth leader in this field.

Long-time coin collector and story-teller, Julius Turoff, won audience attention with many hints and tips on collecting, suggesting at one point that a happy retirement starts with a hobby entry at age eight.

Scott Travers, a past young numismatist and now a successful coin dealer, provided a slide talk covering physical wear on otherwise perfect coins and medals. Larry Gentile Jr. explained how he had become a collector and he presented an exhibit of numismatic materials relating to fish, aircraft, etc.

George Gilbert, editor of *THE SHEKEL*, provided an amusing presentation on ancient coins and their counterpart decorative motifs on modern Israeli coins.

An AINA slide presentation, *Israel Coins and Medals Reflect Jewish History and Traditions*, was presented by Moe Weinschel, an AINA Board Member and curator of the AINA slide library.

The numismatic world's outstanding hobbyist magician, Sam Winiger, made coins disappear, and ropes untie themselves.

Following lunch, a spelling bee conducted by the father and son team of the Gentile family ended with a winner, Elana Lee Vinar, who received a special AINA plaque.

Adolf Weiss, the "Nickel Man", held his premier slide presentation on numismatics. Anthony Swiatek, numismatist, author and lecturer, illustrated a presentation designed to interest youths in collecting with cartoon slides.

Eight-year old Jason Samuels was the winner of the AINA Outstanding Youth Numismatist Award. Craig Pezzillo was the winner of the numismatic quiz.

The meeting in Queens, New York was a pilot effort by AINA, who is seeking to develop a national program to be conducted by INS groups in many American cities. ✡

Larry Gentile, Sr., Jason Samuels and Walter Halpern

COIN HONORS OLDEST SYNAGOGUE IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE

by Harry Flower

This 50 Gulden coin issued in May, 1982 commemorates the 250th Anniversary of the Synagogue of Mikve Israel-Emanuel Congregation, located on Curacao, Netherlands Antilles. This is the oldest Jewish Congregation in the Western hemisphere.

The Netherlands Antilles consists of two groups of islands in the Caribbean Sea; Curacao, Aruba and Bonaire are near South America; St. Eustatitus, Saba and the southern part of St. Maartin are south-east of Puerto Rica. Curacao is the largest of the islands; the capital is Willemstad, population 65,000. The island was discovered by the Spanish navigator Alonso de Ojeda in 1499; the Spanish settled there in 1527, followed by others including Jews. Congregation Mikve Israel-Emanuel was founded in 1654; the Synagogue was erected in 1732. Services have been continuous to the present day.

The obverse of the coin features the frosted silhouette of Queen Beatrix to the left. Curved around the rim is "BEATRIX REGINA NEDERLANDSE ANTILLEN".

The reverse of the coin depicts the synagogue in frosted relief. Just beneath is a large "50 G" the denomination. To the right is a tiny caduceus, the Utrecht Mint mintmark; and to the left is another mintmark. Curved around the rim is "SYNAGOGUE MIKVE ISRAEL-EMANUEL" and at the bottom, the anniversary dates "1732-1982".

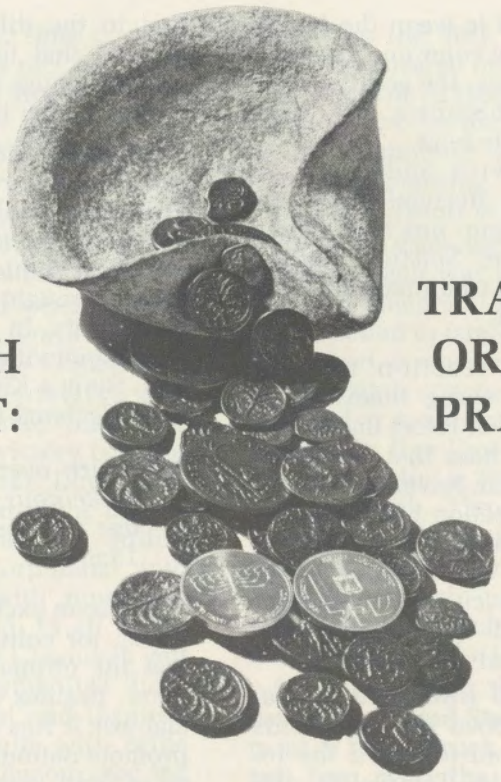
The edge of the coin is plain.

Each coin is housed in a special container, a 2½ x 2¾ inch hinged, snaplock navy blue box, gold stamped on the cover with the Netherlands Coat of Arms, velvet lined, lid is satin lined and stamped " 's RIJKS MUNT / UTRECHT".

The Netherlands State Mint in Utrecht struck 10,000 coins in proof sterling silver (.925 fine), 38mm in diamter, each weighing 25 grams.

The coins were issued by Bank van de Nederlandse Antillen, Bijkantoor Aruba, Havenstraat No. 2, Nederlandse, Antillen and are distributed by Madura & Curiel's Bank N.V., Plaza Djodjo Correa 2-4, Curacao, Netherlandse, Antillen. The price is NAF. 85,— (approx. U.S. $47.50).

CHANUKAH GELT: JEWISH TRADITION OR PAGAN PRACTICE?



by Bernard Hoenig

Silver dollars and Kennedy halves; English shillings, Russian rubles and even chocolate coins—all have been used at one time or another for the traditional gift of Chanukah *Gelt* (money). This old and beautiful custom is a highlight of the Festival of Freedom, particularly for the child who receives the gift.

During the Middle Ages, Chanukah *Gelt* was given to adults. It was one of the primary means of support for the Jewish educator, since the celebration emphasized a renewed dedication to the study of Torah. In recent years the fictitious aspects of the practice have been replaced with the real thing: genuine, legal tender Chanukah *Gelt* minted by the State of Israel; a dream come true; Jewish coins for a Jewish ritual.

Despite its popularity, the authenticity of Chanukah *Gelt* as a pure Jewish tradition is frequently questioned. Its historical sources are obscure. Oddly enough, no mention is made of the practice in the *Talmud*, Codes of Law or other sources of Jewish observance.—Various theories are found, only in some of the later scholarly studies suggesting, for example, that the child's acceptance of Chanukah money symbolizes an acceptance of the responsibility to learn Torah. Others suggest the Gelt is merely to reawaken the youngster's interest in the festival much like the *afikomon matzoh* does during the Seder. Perhaps the gifts of Chanukah are to remind us of joys relating to the restoration of the Temple in 165 B.C.E.

However well intentioned these theories may be, none successfully relates the practice to the actual story of Chanukah. As a result of these attempts to rationalize, one is faced with two major challenges that seek to destroy its Judaic affiliations:

In an attempt to wean the Jewish child from the color and pageantry of Christmas, the gentile tradition of exchanging gifts was adopted by the Jews.
Both the Jewish and Christian customs are derived from the identical pagan practice of the ancient Winter Solstice Festival that predated Chanukah by hundreds of years.

The natural reaction to such thoughts is to shrug them off or shout "Heresy!" or retort that it was probably the others that borrowed the Jewish custom. Nevertheless, unless some connection can be found between Chanukah and its *gelt*, it will always be observed as *just a nice traditional custom* to delight the Jewish child—but without religious or historical relevancy.

Determined to find such a relationship, we probed into the events that preceded and followed the rededication of the Temple in 165 B.C.E. since Chanukah was only the midway point in the struggle for freedom that spanned 100 years. In the *Book of Maccabees* was a solution to the dilemma, a fascinating episode that told of the important role of *coinage* in Hasmonean efforts to win Jewish independence.

For more than 25 years the Maccabean War had raged, taking the lives of Eleazar, Judah and Jonathan. Finally, in 142 B.C.E., the remaining son of Mattathias—Shimon the Maccabee—brought Judea to the state of sovereignty. In an act of recognition considered vital to any emerging nation, Syria's King Antiochus VII Sidetes declared to Shimon,

> *"I turn over to you the right to make your own stamp for coinage for your country" (I Macc. 15:6)*

It was an exciting moment for tiny Judea, for coinage in ancient times was the ultimate symbol of nationhood. Besides its obvious commercial use, it was frequently utilized to promote nationalism, espouse ideologies and commemorate historic events. For years, the basic right to mint its own coins had been denied to the Jewish people by the tyrannical Greco-Syrian rulers.

Thus the first Jewish coins in history culminated the Hasmonean quest for freedom—religious and political—as expressed by the festival of Chanukah. Coins of the pagan overlords no longer circulated through the Land of Israel as bitter reminders of suffering and subjugation.

While little is known about the coinage of Shimon, or if, in fact, that they were ever issued, most of the Hasmonean dynasty strikes depicted cornucopiae—horns of plenty—representing the nation's potential for growth and prosperity. Interestingly one of the coins minted by Antigonus Mattathias (40-37 B.C.E.) last of the Maccabee kings, portrays, the seven-branched Temple *Menorah* on one side and the Table of the Show-

bread on the reverse, thus coming closer to the concept of *Chanukah money* than those of his predecessors.

The designs may even have been deliberately adopted to remind the people of Chanukah which had been neglected by them during the final years of the Hasmonean dynasty.

A half century later when Judea's independence was again threatened—this time by the Roman Empire—the holiday was revived and observed more fervently than ever before. Coincidental victory celebrations such as *Nicanor Day*, commemorating the defeat of the notorious Syrian general by Judah Maccabee, were incorporated into the festival, along with numerous customs of the period. In all likelihood, it was then that Chanukah *gelt* was introduced to symbolize those first Jewish coins that had inspired the children and adults with pride and self reliance and encouraged the giving of *Tzedakah* (charity) throughout the land.

When the Second Temple was destroyed, Jewish coinage ceased to exist, except for a brief period during the Bar Kochba revolt (132-135 C.E.). For almost two thousand years the tradition of Chanukah *gelt* continued, eventually acquiring different meanings in different communities.

In 1958, a decade after the rebirth of the State of Israel, Chanukah *gelt* underwent its most important and exciting change. Through a beautifully conceived program created by the Bank of Israel, special commemorative coins were struck exclusively for use as Chanukah money, thus converting *concept* into *reality* and *fiction* into *fact*. For the first time in Jewish history there were real coins called Chanukah *gelt*.

With a nominal value of one *lira*, the first such commemorative piece poignantly linked together the ancient and modern worlds of Israel, portraying the very same *Menorah* that had appeared on the last Maccabean coins of Antigonus Mattathias, 1,998 years earlier. Beneath the lamp, in modern Hebrew script, were the inspiring words, *"Torah Ohr"—The Torah is Light.*

In recent years each of the annual Chanukah *gelt* was engraved with a different Menorah (or *Chanukihaya*, as it is called in Israel). Although not advertised as such, most of the Chanukah coins convey an underlying political or social theme. In 1972, for instance, a five *lirot* silver coin was struck showing a 20th century Russian *Menorah*. The message to the world was clear: that despite the spiritual enslavement of millions of Soviet Jews, their quest for freedom would continue to burn brightly beside the light of the Chanukah lamp.

Commemorating the 200th birthday of the United States, the Government of Israel struck its 1976 Chanukah coin with the engraving of a colonial American *Menorah*. The coin eloquently expressed the shared concepts of democracy between Israel and America. Within a few months the entire issue was sold out and today it is considered to be one of the nation's rarer numismatic items.

Other countries represented through their *Chanukiyot* have been Italy, Iraq, North Africa, Syria, Holland, France, Israel and Egypt. Certainly the meaning and significance behind the *Menorahs* from the Arab countries is obvious. Egypt's *Chanukiyah* coincided with the peace treaty that year.

The 1980 commemorative—a silver, One Shekel piece—reflected the nation's monetary change from *Lirot* to *Shekalim*. It depicted a *Menorah* from Corfu, Greece which, of course, was the catalyst for all of the historical events of Chanukah. What was most exciting about this coin was that it was the first Shekel coinage to

1982 Chanukah coins in 1 and 2 shekel denominations honor the Yemen Jewish community.

be struck by a Jewish government since the fall of the Temple *(Bais Hamikdash)* in the year, 70.

To add to its historical significance was the decision of the Bank of Israel to mint the coin with the same silver content and weight as that of the ancient Judaen Shekel.

Israel's 1981 Chanukah *gelt* portrays an old *Menorah* from Poland. Again, the *Chanukiyah* is used to demonstrate Judaism's support of a beleaguered people; this time, the Polish workers struggling for freedom from communist oppression. The 1982 *Menorah* has its origins in Yemen, a Middle East country little known in the Western World.

Israel's Chanukah coinage has enabled thousands of Jews to participate in a fascinating and educational Judaic hobby. But above all, it has restored to that ancient custom the dignity, meaning and symbolism that it has always merited.

Imagine Jewry without Chanukah . . . or Chanukah without Chanukah *gelt*!

REPRINTED FROM JEWISH LIFE, FALL 1981

MEIYIR ROSENBERGER, LEADING ISRAEL NUMISMATIST

American collectors were saddened to learn of the death at age 74 of Meiyir Rosenberger, one of Israel's leading numismatists, and a specialist in the ancient city coins of Palestine.

Mr. Rosenberger left Austria in 1938 for France. Following service in the French foreign legion in North Africa, he married in Morocco before settling in Israel in 1943. He was author of four books on ancient city coins, and was well known to the Israel collectors.

Morris Bram, Russ Rulau, Fritzi Brown and Lena Bram

Krause Publications Celebrates Its 30th Anniversary

by Pat Black

The village of Iola, Wisconsin has all the signs of a sleepy rural town—the family-owned drugstore, hardware store and cafe, the one-room post office, and fishermen at the town lake. Clean streets, manicured lawns, freshly painted houses, an active main street sporting the village's own newspaper, recently completed $2½-million dollar high school and a 24-bed community hospital, all speak for the town's prosperity in the midst of Ameria's hard times.

Chet Krause would be the last man to credit his development of Krause Publications and his personal commitment to his hometown with Iola's Economic well-being. The sleepy little village where he has lived his entire life would not doubt have gone on without his contributions, he would probably say, supported by the surrounding dairy farms and the persistent influx of hunters and fishermen. But the community knows better.

The "Godfather" of Iola was how one resident affectionately referred to Chet. Krause Publications is one of the area's leading employers with a staff of 125. The company annually pours several million dollars into the area's economy through payroll, local taxes and utility usage fees.

Visitors from Afar

His numismatic family flocked to Iola from across the country to join with him in celebrating the 30th anniversary of *Numismatic News* and Krause Publications. Lena and Morris Bram of Florida, Joe and Mae Clark of Maryland, Bob Hendershott of Florida, Bob and Betty Medlar of Texas and a whole contingent from California that included Bill and Elizabeth Wisslead, Al and Virginia Hall, Charlie and Mary Colver, Al and Dorothy Baber, and Byran Burke were just a few of those who travelled great distances to this auspicious occasion.

Krause hospitality began as soon as out-of-towners stepped of the plane and were greeted by David Hartman and Tray Forester. Those

using the shuttle service were provided a special souvenir token styled after the later 19th and early 20th century livery 'depotel' tokens and produced for the 30th anniversary activities. Guests had their fill of good food and good company over the weekend, beginning with a steak fry Friday, continuing with doughnuts Saturday morning, a chicken barbeque dinner Saturday noon, and finally a pig roast Saturday evening.

"Delivery on time, all the time", the philosophy behind Krause Publications success and its future ambitions, is evident throughout the plant. They acquired their own "in-house" branch of the U.S. Post Office which hastens dispatch of the more than 200,000 pieces of product and promotional material mailed per week.

Formal ceremonies for the 30th anniversary observance were scheduled for Saturday but after a pelting rain throughout the night we all arose to find Saturday's sky threatening to drench the flag-draped speaker's platform on the front lawn of Krause Publications.

As everyone gathered the sun's intense rays broke through. Shaded by programs and a few umbrellas, several hundred spectators gladly suffered the heat to applaud the praises of Chet Krause and Krause Publications lauded by a roster of distinguished speakers, including Congressmen, Iola's Mayor and Wisconsin Governor Lee S. Dreyfus.

At the festivities' closing social event Saturday evening, several of us topped off our visit with a ride in one of Chet's beautiful and valuable restored antique cars, driven by KP personnel. "Can you imagine an employer who without hesitation would turn over the keys to a priceless automobile and say go enjoy?" the Krause staff member next to me noted in awe. "Only Chet Krause, " I said, "only Chet."

Happy 30th Anniversary, Krause Publications. ✡

FOR YOUR HOME — I.N.S. CLUB OR LOCAL LIBRARY SHELF BOUND VOLUMES OF *THE SHEKEL*

CLOTH-BOUND, GOLD IMPRINTED
VOLUMES 11–12 (1978-1979) and 13-14 (1980-1981)
CONTAIN TWO YEARS
OF THE BIMONTHLY JOURNAL
OF THE

AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

$15.00 per volume, postpaid

SEND CHECK TO:

A.I.N.A., INC. P.O BOX 25790 TAMARAC, FL 33320

AINA TOKEN COIN MAKES INTERNATIONAL NEWS TO AID ISRAELI HOSPITAL

By Sidney L. Olson

The saga of the *Shaare Zedek*—AINA Token Coin has made international fund raising news. Even more exciting, the Shaare Zedek Hospital in Israel is the beneficiary of funds raised in Europe starting with a program launched for Americans in the United States.

The Shekel (May-June 1980) by this writer details the inspiration for the striking of this Token Coin.

ALGEMEEN

Een gift voor Leven in Israël

Leven met een inflatie van 120 procent maakt uw gulden het dubbele waard

op gironummer 2970700

At that time, early in 1980 Ed Schuman, then President; Morris Bram, Chairman of the Board; Sidney L. Olson, Treasurer of AINA; and Saul Zabel, Director for the American Committee for Shaare Zedek in Southeast United States met. Since AINA had done such an exemplary job in promoting trees for the JNF, we thought perhaps a facility could be underwritten in the new hospital of Shaare Zedek at Jerusalem. Morris was adamant that the project offered a numismatic virtue for AINA members and he insisted that the project be self-liquidating.

He was absolutely correct. We struck upon the idea of obtaining a large quantity of 5 Israeli Lira coins that were to be phased out. A design that was mutually agreed upon was brought forward by Mr. Howard Ahl.

A large quantity of these coins were obtained at Bank Leumi and transported back to the United States. These were purchased in a deadheat with the salvaging of the Metal in these coins. As a matter of fact, the day the coins were purchased, a tender went out to metal dealers for the purchase of all the remaining 5 Israeli Lira coins to be scrapped.

For a donation of $5.00 to the American Committee for Shaare Zedek Hospital, one would receive a Token Coin struck for AINA and Shaare Zedek, plus a certificate to be issued honoring the memory of whomsoever the donor chose.

After we were partway into this program it became apparent that with rising costs, the $5.00 was a negative donation to the hospital. As a result the donation required was raised to $10.00 and subsequently blank envelopes were printed to reflect this.

In the fall of 1980, Mr. Bernard Zimmer of London and Copenhagen visited my office in Miami. Bernard is the representative for fund raising for Shaare Zedek Hospital in Western Europe. A thought occurred: Perhaps he could create a promotion to use these Token Coins to raise money in Western Europe.

After Bernard returned to Europe he met one of his staunch supporters, Mr. Jan Blees, Editor of the *Reformatorish Dagblad*, a paper published in Apledoorn, Holland. A full page was given by this newspaper in their December 10th, 1980 paper to promote the Token Coins with any size gift to the hospital. A photo of this newspaper is shown.

This same publisher published an annual crossword puzzle book about the same time; in it he ran a full page ad suggesting donations to the hospital. By contrast to the results in the United States, $264,000 was subscribed and approximately 7,000 Token Coins were used as gifts. Calculation shows that each Token Coin was responsible for a gift of approximately $37.00. Since at the outset we had decided on a limit to the number of Token Coins available for this program we are now about ready to set that limit, including the approximately 7,000 that went to Europe. Several large gifts were given that

did not require gifts of Token Coins. There was one for $1,000; another for $1,500; and another for $2,500.

The Shaare Zedek Hospital of Jerusalem has figured very heavily in the development of numismatics during the Palestine as well as the Israel era. Dr. Moishe Wallach is noted for his Matzo Meal Tokens. There also are Tokens that were issued for meals, snacks, etc. during the immediate post independence, for the control of food within the hospital. In 1973 both Bronze and Silver medals were struck to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Shaare Zedek Hospital by Israel Government Coins and Medals as a private issue. They are scarce.

Once again (in 1978) the IGCAM issued for sale to the public the commemorative medals for the opening of the new Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem. These were also issued in Bronze and Silver.

Today now we have the latest addition in the collaboration of AINA and Shaare Zedek: The raising of funds for a "Pediatric Facility" dedicated to American Israel Numismatic Association.

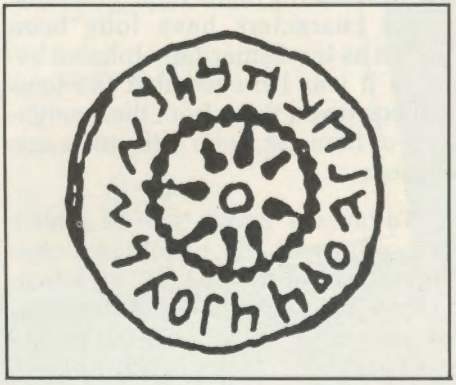
The writer of this article calls to your attention a pre-stamped envelope included with this issue. This is an application for the Token Coin and the presentation of a donation of your choice. All gifts are tax deductible when made out to the *American Committee for Shaare Zedek Hospital*. Please address the writer at 605 Lincoln Road - Suite 211 - Miami Beach, Florida 33139, for any further information.

Ancient Hebrew Coin Inscriptions

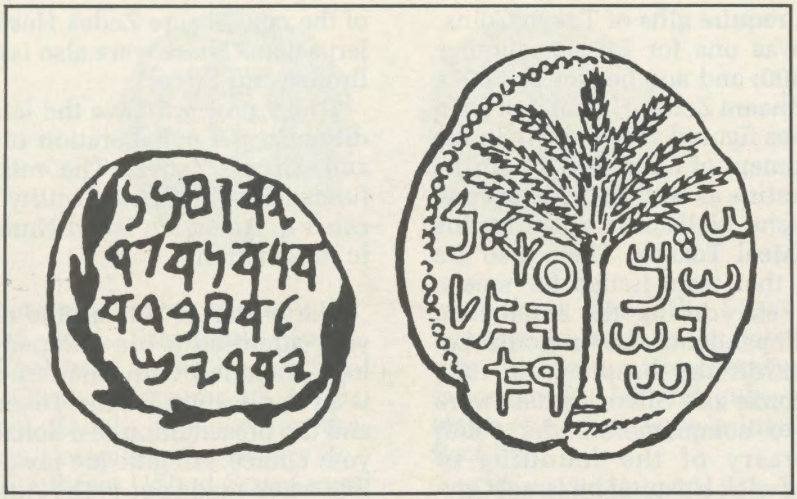
by Mel Wacks, NLG

Theodore Reinach wrote in 1903 in *Jewish Coins* that "It may be asserted that every Jewish coin inscribed in square Hebrew characters is a modern forgery." He was evidently refering to the "False Shekels" that used modern square Hebrew rather than the ancient Hebrew inscribed on all genuine ancient Jewish shekels.

Reinach went on to write: "We see that the legends on the Hasmonean coins amply confirm the statements of Josephus as to the history of this



Only one ancient Judaean coin utilized "square" Hebrew letters. It is also the earliest dated coin of the Holy Land!



The ancient Hebrew inscriptions from the earliest Maccabean coin (First Century BC) on the left to the last Jewish coin of Simon Bar Kochba (135 CE) on the right, all use an early form of the alphabet which bears little resemblance to modern "square" Hebrew.

dynasty; at first scrupulous servants of the theocracy, purely Jews and priests, the descendants of the Maccabees, emancipated themselves little by little from the tutelage of the Pharisees, entitled themselves kings, and displayed those very Hellenizing tendencies against which their ancestors had been the first to revolt.

"The writing of these legends is no less interesting than their contents. These characters have long been known as the Samaritan alphabet because it was believed that the Jews had borrowed them from their neighbors of Samaria, who still make use of them.

"Today we know that in reality they represent the primitive Palestinian form of the Hebrew alphabet. They approach, indeed, with singular closeness, to the writing of the most ancient Hebrew inscriptions—the Stele of Mesha and the inscription of Siloam. This alphabet, consecrated by tradition, remained the only one in use on the purely Jewish coins, even after the square alphabet, coming from Babylon, was introduced into current use: Between the coins of John Hyrcanus (135-104 BC) and those of Bar Kochba (132-35 AD) there is no appreciable palaeographical difference."

While this is basically true, there is one exception: A small bronze lepton issued by Alexander Jannaeus. Surrounding a sun-wheel is an inscription that Reifenberg called "unintelligible" and Meshorer refers to as "enigmatic . . . resembling square Hebrew script."

Indeed, this is an inscription in Hebrew script (also called Aramaic) that reads "King Alexander, Year 25." This corresponds to the year 78 BC, and makes these small coins doubly unique as the only ancient Jewish coin with a square Hebrew inscription, and the first dated Judaean coin! - From *World Coin News*.

MAKE 1983 YOUR YEAR TO VISIT ISRAEL

American Israel Numismatic Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 25790
Tamarac, Florida 33320

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I announce AINA's 15th Annual Study Tour to Israel which is scheduled for March 3rd to March 17th, 1983.

Now is the time to see the Holy Land...this tiny land, with its glorious past and exciting present, never ceases to amaze the world with its extraordinary courage and daring.

Our tour program will be very exciting this year. One of the highlights will be a tour of the Israel Aircraft Industry and, if at all possible, a visit to Lebanon but this depends entirely upon the political climate at the time. We will also visit the Shaare Zedek Hospital.

Among the many gala events being planned will be a reception by the Mayor of Jerusalem, The Honorable Teddy Kollek.

We are also planning an optional trip to Egypt which will include the Pyramids and the Sphinx.

Gifts from the Israel Government and AINA will be presented to all participants.

We look forward to welcoming you when you join us next March.

Sincerely,

Morris Bram
President

$1899
Dbl. Occup.

For reservations send $100.00 deposit per person to

AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 25790, Tamarac, Florida 33320

Anouncing the

FIFTH ANNUAL GREATER FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL COIN CONVENTION

will be held simultaneously with
the Convention of

THE AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 13-16, 1983

at a new location

THE DIPLOMAT RESORT & COUNTRY CLUB

HOLLYWOOD BY THE SEA - FLORIDA

RESERVE NOW FOR SPECIAL AINA RATES

FREE PARKING

10 Miles from Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood Airport

Security by John C. Mandel

CONTINUOUS HOURS:
Thursday, Jan. 13 - 10 am-7 pm
Friday, Jan. 14 - 10 am-7 pm
Saturday, Jan. 15 - 10 am-6 pm
Sunday, Jan. 16 - 10 am-5 pm

Auction by
Numismatic Investment of Florida
Auctioneer:
Lee J. Bellisario

Educational Forum:
Sat., Jan. 15, 1983
Speakers: Roger Lane
Morty Zerder
Herbert Kwart
Moderator: Stanley Yulish

Convention will have Exhibits, Bourse, Educational Forums

ADMISSION IS FREE

For further information, contact Jack Garfield, General Chairman
P.O. Box 25790, Tamarac, FL. 33320 Phone: 305/726-0333